

Gerald W. Cloud
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ATELIER DIDIER MUTEL 

ATELIER DIDIER MUTEL is represented by Gerald W. Cloud Rare Books, San Francisco, CA.

Mutel, Didier. *R217A: Resolution 217A des Nations Unies: Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme*. Paris: Didier Mutel, 2016. First Edition. 70 leaves; Regular copies 20 x 30 cm; Deluxe copies 30 x 40 cm. Silk and carbon paper, printed with white ink on white silk paper, bound in white paper wrappers. Each copy is housed in a white Corian two-piece box with a debossed title on the front cover. Signed by Didier Mutel. 108 copies, of which 5 deluxe, 3 hors commerce for the collaborators, and 100 regular copies.



R217A reproduces the text of the United Nations Resolution 217A, the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man, made December 10, 1948, which was ratified by the UN General Assembly in Paris by 58 member states. Mutel's work, printed in white on white paper, reminds us that these rights can be at times nearly invisible. By interleaving his book with blue carbon paper *R217A* makes a gesture toward its own reproduction, the inky blue serving as a "positive contaminant" that rubs off on each reader. The work is both an elegant metaphor and a *tour de force* of craftsmanship and printing.

Mutel received the prestigious *Prix Liliane Bettencourt pour l'Intelligence de la Main*, a juried prize for "exceptional talent" that recognized *R217A* as a work "resulting from a perfect mastery of techniques and savoir-faire of artistic craft" as well as demonstrating "innovation, and contributing to the evolution of this knowledge."

Mutel has said of his book: "This artist book presents a text fundamental to modern history: The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights of Man. Printed with white ink on white paper, it can be seen as an empty book. Graphically and poetically, it suggests the words from Maupassant's *Horla*, "have you seen it, can you see it, and yet it exists." Even while it seems invisible, this text exists in the book and in ourselves. In between every white page is blue carbon paper that affirms the transmission of these ideas. The reader might take away on his fingers a little bit of the blue carbon ink. Some of the carbon ink might also go onto the white paper. For me, a book is a very dynamic object." (116)

Regular copies:

\$3,400

Deluxe copies:

sold out

THE FIRST ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES OF ACID

Didier Mutel

Atelier Didier Mutel: Orchamps, France, 2017

This edition of THE FIRST ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES OF ACID printed on Arches 250 gram paper (56 x 76 cm) is limited to 101 copies, as follows:

- 50 regular copies: *The Representatives copies* numbered from 1 to 50 and carrying artists' names with 55 original etchings by Didier Mutel, custom box by John Demerritt.
- 50 deluxe copies: *The Senators copies* numbered from I to L, carrying superheroes names, with 55 original etchings by Didier Mutel each US state printed twice, and presented with and without marginalia: a total of 165 plates. Deluxe copies are housed in three custom boxes by John Demerritt.
- 1 unique copy : *The Presidential copy* includes the 55 original etchings by Didier Mutel each US state printed twice, and presented with and without marginalia: a total of 165 plates. The copy contains all the original ink drawings by Didier Mutel used as models and the 5 sketchbooks linked to this work. The Presidential copy is housed in six custom boxes by John Demerritt.



Title page, custom box, and the plate for Northern California

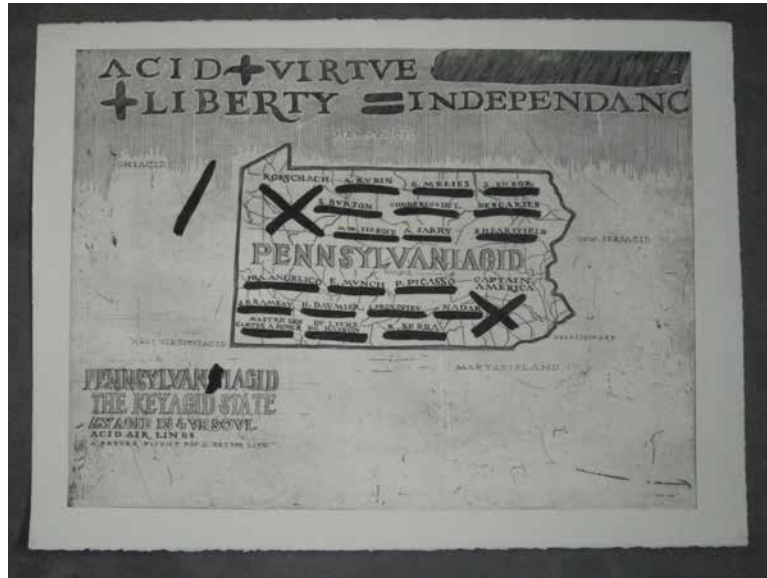
The plates have been hand engraved then printed on Arches 250 gram paper in the Atelier Didier Mutel in Orchamps, Jura, France. The original concept for this work was conceived by Didier Mutel, and each copy is numbered and signed on the colophon by the author-printer, who was assisted by Cyril Guffroy.



The plates are interleaved with custom printed guard sheets

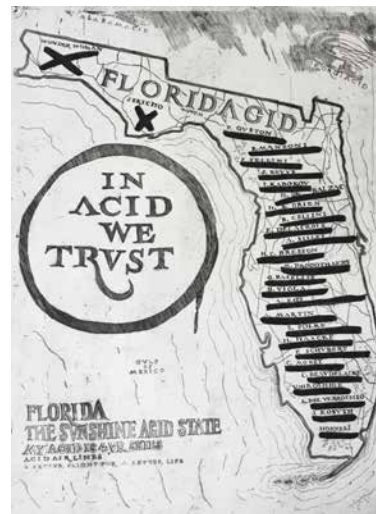
Didier Mutel's newest work was created in the tradition of large format atlases engraved on copper plates. For centuries etching and the *aqua fortis* technique have been used for the production of maps and atlases, rendering geographical features and state boundaries with elegantly drawn lines that form our understanding of the world. *The First Atlas of the United States of Acid* is part of this technical tradition, and each state is accurately represented in correct shape, size, and scale. But this is no mere map of the real world, but rather a utopian version of a country characterized by hopeful reality and humorous fiction. *The Atlas* represents the true geographical borders of each U.S. State, along with each state's Congressional members; however, correct in their proportional distribution, the members of the legislature

have been reassigned by the printer and creator of *The Atlas*. Artists, painters, and thinkers ranging from the renaissance to the contemporary world, such as Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Dürer, Goya, and James Turell, now run the House of Representatives. Meanwhile, Super Heroes run the Senate, with Batman, Superman, and the Hulk all present. *The Atlas* therefore presents a utopian country governed by artists and thinkers with the support of superheroes in its upper house. It took about three years to achieve the first copies of this ambitious work, which was printed on the historical presses of the studio.



Each state is printed to scale on a single sheet, except California (two plates), Texas (three), Montana (one larger plate), with Alaska printed at a smaller scale. A bonus set of 16 plates representing Alaska at the same scale as the other states is also available.

Deluxe copies (Presidential and Senator's copies) have two plates for each State, with and without marginalia, allowing an alternate aesthetic experience as well as the possibility to inter-connect each state to create a unified map of the United States, measuring 3 x 2 meters (10 x 7 feet).



Pricing:*

Representatives' copies (50 copies, numbered 1-50):	\$10,000
Senators' copies (50 copies, numbered I – L):	\$18,750
Presidential copy (unique)	Price on Demand

*All copies include the states of Alaska and Hawaii on a single plate, with Alaska represented at a smaller scale. A special series of 16 extra plates presenting Alaska at the same scale as the other states is also available.

Representatives' Alaska, full scale (16 extra plates)	\$4,000
Senators' Alaska, full scale (32 extra plates)	\$6,500

*Shipping provided at cost (this is a large and heavy work).